

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 00146 061827Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PM-05  
NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 H-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01  
ACDA-12 MCE-00 IGA-02 IO-13 SSM-03 PRS-01 /093 W  
-----086897 061836Z /45

R 061659Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4295  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MADRID  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMCONSUL OPORTO  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA  
USMISSION USNATO  
DIA WASHDC  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN ER  
USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS BEL  
COMUSFORAZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 0146

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3  
TAGS: MASS, PO, IS  
SUBJECT: PAF SEEKS AIRCRAFT FROM ISRAEL

REF: IR 6 879 0008 78

SUMMARY: FORMER AIR FORCE CHIEF LTC MORAIS DA SILVA PLANS TO  
TRAVEL TO ISRAEL ON JAN 22 IN WHAT LOOKS LIKE AN EFFORT  
TO OBTAIN MODERN FIGHTER AIRCRAFT. IF THE INITIATIVE  
PROSPERS, IT COULD COMPLICATE GOP EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN AN  
EVEN-HAND POSTURE TOWARD BOTH ARABS AND ISRAELIS.  
END SUMMARY.  
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1. MISSION TO TEL AVIV: EMBASSY HAS LEARNED THAT FORMER AIR  
FORCE CHIEF LTC MORAIS DA SILVA IS GOING TO ISRAEL ON A  
"CONFIDENTIAL MISSION." ACCORDING TO HIS WIFE, MORAIS DA  
SILVA, THE ISRAELI AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF AND PAF CHIEF  
GEN LEMOS FERREIRA MET JAN 5. AFTER LENGTHY DISCUSSION IT  
WAS DECIDED HE WOULD GO TO ISRAEL ON JAN 22 FOR A TEN-DAY

VISIT. THE VISIT IS RELATED TO A NUMBER OF PRIVATE MEETINGS IN PARIS BETWEEN PORTUGUESE AND ISRAELI AIR FORCE PERSONNEL. (SEE REF IR FOR DETAILS.)

2. THE OBJECTIVE--FIGHTER AIRCRAFT: WE BELIEVE MORAIS DA SILVA IS GOING TO ISRAEL IN AN EFFORT TO OBTAIN MODERN FIGHTER AIRCRAFT FOR THE PORTUGUESE AIR FORCE. THE PAF HAS BEEN UNHAPPY FOR MONTHS OVER ITS INABILITY TO ACQUIRE FIGHTERS FROM THE UNITED STATES OR OTHER NATO ALLIES. DISSATISFACTION HAS BEEN FUELED BY:

- THE EXTENSIVE MAINTENANCE REQUIRED ON THE G-91'S PROVIDED BY THE FRG;
- THE RAPID US DELIVERY OF T-38'S (PEACE TALON) WITH FOLLOW-ON F-5'S NOT EXPECTED FOR SOME YEARS;
- HIGH-LEVEL PAF VISITORS AT HQS USAF AND HQS USAFE PLUS VISITS BY USAF PERSONNEL TO PORTUGAL WITHOUT COMMITMENTS OF FUTURE ASSISTANCE.

3. IMPLICATIONS: WE DOUBT THAT PRESIDENT EANES OR THE GOP IS YET AWARE OF THE PAF INIATIVE. UNILATERAL ACTION BY THE PAF WOULD NOT GO DOWN WELL WITH EITHER. THE PAF NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE ISRAELI'S, MOREOVER, COULD COMPLICATE GOP EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN AN EVEN-HANDED POSTURE TOWARD BOTH ARABS AND ISRAELIS. WE WILL KEEP ADDRESSEES ADVISED. OKUN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AIRCRAFT, FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, VISITS, AIRCRAFT SALES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 jan 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780010-1275  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**SAS ID:** 3818813  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PAF SEEKS AIRCRAFT FROM ISRAEL  
**TAGS:** MASS, PO, IS, (DA SILVA, MORAIS)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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